GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:848
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2016
Revival of Water Bodies
Singh Shri Satya Pal

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to revive the small rivers and ponds drying due to depletion in ground water levels leading to a number of blocks becoming dark zones in the country including Uttar Pradesh;
(b) whether the Government has any plan to revive the barasati rivers which have dried up due to declining water level and their area have been converted into agricultural land in various parts of the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (c) Works related to water resources development & management are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies, etc.

As far as this Ministry is concerned, following steps have been taken in this regard;
(i) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified 162 areas (Districts, Blocks, Mandals, Talukas, Municipal areas, etc.) in the country for regulation of ground water development and management and restriction on installation of new ground water abstraction structures without prior specific approval of the Authorized officers.
(ii) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has formulated a scheme "Ground Water Management and Regulation" during XII Plan which , inter-alia, envisages aquifer mapping and management program, participatory management of groundwater involving Panchayati Raj Institutions, local communities, NGOs and other stakeholders for ensuring sustainable management of groundwater resources in the Country etc.
(iii) CGWB has implemented demonstrative rain water harvesting and artificial recharge projects for facilitating State Governments to replicate the same in similar hydrogeological environment.
(iv) Advisory has been issued to all the Chief Secretaries of the States and Administrators of the Union Territories by CGWA to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ rainwater harvesting.
(v) A scheme namely Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies which has multiple objectives like Comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing tank storage capacity, Ground Water Recharge, Increased availability of drinking water etc has been taken up.

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